

The Colonist.

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1900.

THE FISHERMEN'S STRIKE.

From present appearances the fishermen's strike will result in the closing down of the canneries and the loss to the province of fully \$2,000,000. The burden of the evil will not fall upon the canners, who can probably carry over to another year the liabilities which they have incurred on account of preparations for the abortive work of this year. The great harm will result to the general public. Something like 10,000 or 12,000 people rely upon the fisheries for their subsistence during the summer, and many of these persons have already been allowed to go in debt by retail merchants in view of their prospects of getting employment. The same class of merchants have provided for a summer's business on the strength of the fisheries. They will feel the effects of the strike very acutely, and any embarrassment which may affect them will also touch the wholesalers who supply them. It is true that as the demand for labor is very good, many of the fishermen will find no difficulty in getting employment in other parts of the province, but this means just so much business lost to the Fraser river retailers. So far as the canners are concerned, they can stand the effects of the strike better than anyone. The fishermen's strike illustrates forcibly the folly to which labor unions will at times resort under the leadership of unreasonable men. Those who are in a position to know say that the great majority of the fishermen were perfectly content to work for the price offered by the canners. This shows that the price was one at which good wages could be made. It may be perfectly true that a man cannot get rich by catching salmon at 20 cents each, but how many of us manage to get rich no matter what our earnings may be? The effort of the strike leaders seems to have been to compel the canners to pay a rate which the trade will not stand. A well-informed canner, who was asked the other day why he did not present his figures to the fishermen in order to convince them that 20 cents was the maximum price that could be paid, answered: "We did show them our figures; but they would not believe us." When asked who he referred to, he said he referred to the strike leaders. The general idea of the fishermen is willing to accept their employers' word. Here we have a case in which the men, who know the details of the business, submit a statement of their losses to those whom they desire to employ, and the statement shows that the price offered is all that the business will stand, and yet at the instigation of agitators the employees refuse to accept the statement as true. What is the use in talking about arbitration and conciliation to such people?

The government, not only of the province, but also of the Dominion, will have to struggle with the strike evil at an early day. We do not suggest that any man shall be compelled to work by law; but we do insist that if a man wishes to work at a rate of pay available, he ought to be protected by the law in the exercise of his right to do so as a free British subject. There is no tyranny so dangerous and unreasonable as the tyranny of the demagogue, who is generally a man having no business of his own and therefore desirous of regulating every one else's affairs. We are opposed to laws coercive of the workman, and we are opposed to organizations which coerce him as no government would dare to.

THE BATTLE OF TIEN TSIN.

Now that other nations than ours have had an opportunity to go up against an enemy armed with modern rifles, and fighting from behind walls, there will be a better understanding of what our soldiers have had to face in South Africa. In the detailed accounts of the battle of Tien Tsin, sent to the United States papers, it appears that the American marines were in quite as bad a box as any of our fellows in South Africa and suffered just as severely. The Russians almost made a failure of their attack. The British and French seem to have done pretty well, but to the Japanese belongs the chief honor of the day. It is to be remembered, however, that the British, United States and French contingents were numerically small. The heavy loss of the United States contingent seems to have been due either to a misconception on the part of their commander or the plan decided upon or a wish to act independently. His men fought well, and a casualty list of nearly 20 per cent shows what they had to sustain in the way of fire.

A notable feature of the battle is the courage with which the Chinese fought and the accuracy of their fire. This is quite different from what we have been accustomed to expect from the Chinese. A great deal remains to be told about this battle, and when it is made public we may understand the nature of the problem before the powers more clearly than we do at present. The effect of the capture of Tien Tsin has been to compel the Chinese to abandon the territory in the immediate vicinity. The area to which this statement, which comes from Admiral Seymour, applies cannot be very large, for it is not as if we should be no longer lost in doubt as to the fate of Tien Tsin and Pekin, the distance between Tien Tsin and Pekin being only about 75 miles. If the legations are safe, as is repeatedly alleged, they will probably remain so for the present because of the capture of Tien Tsin, which will strengthen the hands of those who are endeavoring to preserve some semblance of order in the capital.

OUR VISITORS.

Victoria welcomes the members of the Women's Council. If they had come to the Coast principally to see the country we should all be glad to see them, for our great complaint against the East, is that too few people come from that part of Canada to this. But they have other motives in making the journey, and these make them doubly welcome. The Women's Council may fairly be said to be representative of the work now being done by the women of Canada outside of the home, social and business circles. The sphere of usefulness open to women is widening every year, and while no one will deny that their chief place is in the home, it must be admitted that their influence is showing itself powerful for good in wider fields. To say that women's organizations have made no mistakes would be to take them out of the list of human institutions. Their strength lies in their humanity. A wonderful thing about it is that the field in which they labor is a new one. We may never know the name of the Columbus who discovered it, but whoever she may have been, she has laid the race under an eternal obligation.

It is difficult to understand how the complex civilization of the present day could exist without the co-operation of women in public work. The demands upon men's time are so many, the stress of business is so great, that much, which we have learned to recognize as necessary, would have to remain undone if women did not come forward and assume the responsibility of its performance. We need not go outside of our own city for proof of this. Take out hospital work for an example, and others will occur to every reader. What laboring done here is being done all over Canada, and, in fact, all over every English-speaking country. Men simply could not and would not do this work. Most men can hardly find time, or they think they cannot, to give occasional assistance to women in this work, which is of a class that cannot be purchased. It would be utterly impossible to hire people to do what the women referred to are doing. It is all a labor of love, which seeks no reward but that which comes from a consciousness of duty discharged.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

The general business outlook in Victoria is hopeful. It is reflected in ordinary conversation on the streets. Everywhere the same feeling is manifest. This is an excellent thing. The amount of actual coin and currency in a community does not vary greatly from year to year, and when money is scarce it is because people are holding on to it. Let anything occur to create distrust or misapprehension for the future, and people hesitate about spending money freely. Consequently it then becomes scarce. When people feel that the prospects for the future are fairly good they loosen their purse-strings and money becomes more plentiful. Victorians generally feel that the near future is full of promise, and they are buying more freely than for some time back. One has only to notice the appearance of the stores and the crowds of shoppers on the streets to see that an easy feeling is uppermost in the minds of the people. There is no doubt that the prospect of British Columbia becoming a base of operations in connection with the Chinese difficulties adds to the feeling of hopefulness for the future.

The prosperity of the city is reflected in the improvements made to our business houses. We have made many successes in the Colonist to what has been done in this way during the present year. This morning we direct attention elsewhere to the plans of the Hutschinson Company, who are evidently determined upon being not only up to date, but ready to meet the requirements of the expanding business of the city. The same thing is true of other firms, as the most casual observer has seen in more than one quarter of the business section. Such improvements as these mean progress of a genuine character. They are not made for show, but because it pays to make them. We have business establishments on Government street which are far in advance of anything looked for in British Columbia five years ago. What does this mean, if not that business is improving? We may not be experiencing in Victoria the spectacular growth seen in some other places—a growth too often followed by depression, but we are advancing steadily and taking no steps backward.

IMPORTANT NEWS.

A special despatch from Ottawa to the Colonist says that the government has been asked to prepare for the transportation of a large number of troops and great quantities of munitions of war across the Continent, with a view to their being employed in the Orient. This is very important news and will mean much to the whole of Canada. Troops cannot be transported without being fed and otherwise cared for, and the moment the movement sets in, breadstuffs and other food products will at once begin to move westward to the Coast. These supplies and munitions of war cannot be moved from place to place without a large expenditure of money for labor and otherwise. British Columbia is about to become a principal base of operations for what promises to be one of the greatest military, and perhaps naval, operations in modern times. The importance of this to British Columbia can hardly be overestimated. The effect upon business of all kinds cannot fail to be profound.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

We notice a disposition on the part of Eastern newspapers to object to the

policy of granting railway subsidies. It comes chiefly from those papers which are printed in cities having all the rail- way connection they can possibly need, and in the centres of districts gridironed by steel rails. Because they have all they need, they are not willing that other localities shall receive due consideration. The large Eastern cities are just a little too dictatorial in matters of this kind. They may be the distributing centres of trade, and hence the customs the heaviest contributors to the federal revenue, but in point of fact, man for man, these cities do not bear anything like a per capita share of the country's burdens. With a dozen or two trains a day on lines, largely paid for out of the public treasury, the city people say: "We cannot afford to go on subsidizing roads in out-of-the-way places that we can hardly find on the map." If this Dominion had never undertaken the policy of subsidizing railways, we do not know for the house to supply and what few measures it is likely to be regarded as a revenue point of view. Never before has there been such a demand for coal upon the Pacific Ocean as there is now, and as there is likely in the future to be. British Columbia is and must continue to be one of the chief sources of supply. We find in the newspapers of San Francisco and elsewhere speculations as to the ability of this province to increase its coal output. Among other things, these papers say will be open, and which will require a large quantity, is that of China, especially as the European navies in the China Sea are being greatly strengthened. The proposal to place a tax on coal comes, therefore, at a very favorable time. What other methods of increasing the revenue the government may suggest, we are not in a position to say; but that there are methods readily available will be admitted by any one who has given the subject consideration. The people of British Columbia are not heavily taxed, and they are sufficiently enterprising not to make any objection to an increase, when they have a guarantee, in the character of the ministry and legislature, that the money will be wisely and economically expended.

A LITTLE PROTEST.

We find in the London Daily Mail an editorial paragraph from this paper credited to the Vancouver Colonist. This of itself is not a matter of any importance. There is no such paper as the Vancouver Colonist, and anyway we do not care whether credit is given or not to this paper for its editorial expressions of opinion. But not only the Mail but other London papers have a habit of crediting to Vancouver news and everything else which comes from Victoria. Against this we protest, for it is hardly fair that our sister city should be advertised to the world at the expense of Victoria. Some one, who has access at some stage to telegraphic news from Victoria, frequently sends it to the press with a Vancouver date. Newspapers cannot guard against this, but it is none the less annoying.

NOME AGAIN.

We reprint from the Seattle Times a story from Nome that is fit to place beside the most gruesome tale from China. The outlook on that northern beach is horrible in the extreme. What the unhappy people will do, who have made their money in the fair tales of transportation companies, can only be surmised. Those newspapers which exploit the fake gold field to the utmost of their ingenuity are equally culpable with the companies, which sent so many people north to destitution and death. We do not suppose that any one deliberately deceived the public in regard to the richness of the place. The early stories, which were brought out, seemed reasonably substantial. It is true that experienced men sent out warnings last fall that the rich deposits were exhausted, but these were disregarded by the public, because they were not made prominent by newspapers desirous to build up any kind of a trade in the cities to which they are published. On the other hand, every rose-colored tale was played up for a great deal more than it was worth. If these stories had been told of some region near at hand, no very great amount of harm would have been done. People could have got away when they were disappointed. But Nome is so remote from centres of population, the cost of transportation is so large, the season during which vessels can reach the beach is so brief, that men stranded there are in a terrible plight, for when winter has once set in they are completely cut off from the rest of the world. It will be argued on behalf of the transportation companies and the newspapers that people ought to have thought about these things. That is quite true, but people did not think about them, or if they did, the prospects held out to them were so alluring that they decided to take their chances. It is fair to all concerned to say that no one could have reasonably foreseen the pestilential conditions existing at Nome. Privations are common enough in the North, but as a rule people who take the good care of themselves are as healthy there as anywhere. The Colonist warned people against being misled into trying their fortunes on this desolate beach, but it never occurred to us that death would be stalking abroad before the summer was over.

What is going to be done about it? The summer has been only a temporary difference of opinion in the house as to the desirability of making the office more in accord with the needs and importance of the province, and of filling it with

beach. Steamers will not go there unless in the hope of getting big prices from persons anxious to flee from pestilence during the few weeks remaining of open navigation. If the place were in Canada, we should call upon the government to take action at once to remove it, if possible, the unfortunate on the ground of doing what they can, but we greatly fear that, unless all accounts are very much exaggerated, it will be impossible to check the pestilence before winter sets in and a barrier of ice hides the beach and its horrors from the world during the long Arctic winter.

THE SPEECH.

The Speech with which the legislature was opened yesterday will be well received by the country. No one expected a very extensive programme for the session and there would have been little adverse comment if it contained only a request for the house to pass supply and what few measures it is likely to be regarded as a revenue point of view. Never before has there been such a demand for coal upon the Pacific Ocean as there is now, and as there is likely in the future to be. British Columbia is and must continue to be one of the chief sources of supply. We find in the newspapers of San Francisco and elsewhere speculations as to the ability of this province to increase its coal output. Among other things, these papers say will be open, and which will require a large quantity, is that of China, especially as the European navies in the China Sea are being greatly strengthened. The proposal to place a tax on coal comes, therefore, at a very favorable time. What other methods of increasing the revenue the government may suggest, we are not in a position to say; but that there are methods readily available will be admitted by any one who has given the subject consideration. The people of British Columbia are not heavily taxed, and they are sufficiently enterprising not to make any objection to an increase, when they have a guarantee, in the character of the ministry and legislature, that the money will be wisely and economically expended.

The intention of the government to ask for a commission to inquire into the work of the minor acts with a view to the introduction of legislation on the subject next year is very wise. Mining is at the present time the most important industry in the province. It is unlike many other industries in that it must always be regulated to some extent by legislation. As investments are made and enterprises are undertaken in view of existing legislation, that is, the mining laws of the province, it is necessary to have the industry regulated by the laws of the province. It is important that changes in the law should be made as seldom as possible. To secure immunity from changes it is expedient that those who are interested in mining in any way, either as prospectors, investors, managers or miners, shall be consulted as to the industry regulation for the benefit of the fair and intelligent audience was not confined to Mr. Martin, but no one else said anything which had better have been left unsaid. Everyone sympathized with Mr. Prentice when he indignantly repelled the attack upon him.

Special mention ought to be made of the remarks of Mr. Murphy and Mr. Dickie in moving and seconding the nomination of Mr. Booth as Speaker. Both the manner and matter of their brief speeches were excellent, and gave promise that in them the house has gained valuable additions to its debating force. Mr. Martin's very cordial endorsement of the opinions expressed by them in regard to the new Speaker will be agreed to by every one, either in or out of the house, who has come in contact with the very worthy gentleman referred to.

MR. SPEAKER BOOTH.

John P. Booth, elected yesterday to be Speaker of the ninth parliament of British Columbia, is no tyro in legislative matters. We find his name on the roll of the first legislature after Confederation, he having been elected for Cowichan. He served until 1875. He was elected again for the constituency known as The Islands in 1880. In 1884 The Islands were included in North Victoria District, and in that year Mr. Booth was elected from the new constituency. In 1888 he was again elected, and again this year. On the resignation of the speakership by Mr. D. W. Higgins in 1898, Mr. Booth was chosen for the place, and gave great satisfaction during the session of that year.

An experienced parliamentarian and a man of honorable instincts, we are satisfied that the House will find in Mr. Booth a Speaker who will sustain the best traditions of that honorable position. He will ever have regard for the rights of the minority, which is where the value of the speakership comes in. The majority can always take care of itself. The Colonist, which has sup-

ported Mr. Booth on so many occasions when he has appealed to the electorate, congratulates him most heartily upon his choice by the house to preside over its deliberations.

IN CHINA.

About all that any one can do in regard to events in China and in connection therewith is to speculate. It is hardly safe to believe anything. The statement comes from Russia that the Czar's government has handed the Chinese minister his passports. This can only be in anticipation of an immediate declaration of war. If it is true, then an entirely new and exceedingly novel face is put upon affairs in the Orient. If Russia is to go to war with China, what position will the other powers occupy? If they assist Russia, the fact that they are only engaged in suppressing disorder will have to be abandoned, for it is obvious that to assist a nation at war with another is tantamount to a declaration of war against the latter nation. This has more than a theoretical importance, for there are certain restrictions upon belligerents, and possibly some privileges accorded them, which do not affect nations in a theoretical state of peace. Certain articles become contraband of war in such an event. During the war with Spain, Great Britain declared coal to be contraband of war, and this greatly crippled the Spanish navy. Supposing that this rule should be acted on in this war, and Great Britain should not declare war against China, Russia could not get her warships to the Chinese sea for lack of coal. This is only one of the many complications that might arise. Again, the United States seeks to avoid war with China; but if Russia declares war, she must either withdraw her forces or be reckoned as a belligerent. The only solution of the case is an international agreement in which all the powers interested must join. Doubtless in dealing with China the strict rules of international law will not be too closely observed.

THE OPENING OF THE HOUSE.

Never in the history of British Columbia, and we fancy that rarely in the history of Canada, has there been so brilliant an opening of the legislature as that which took place yesterday. The Lieutenant-Governor and suite presented a brilliant appearance, which was heightened by the courteous presence of the officers from the Chilian warship now in Esquimaux harbor. The gathering of the public was very attractive, especially the choice of subjects in at least two of the city pulpits. Rev. Mr. Rowe, of the Metropolitan Methodist church, chose the subject, "The National Value of Women," while at the First Presbyterian church Rev. Dr. Campbell took for his evening subject "Dorcas, a Woman Full of Good Works and of Alms."

The programme for Monday's proceedings and the list of officers and delegates follows: 10 to 11:30 a.m.—Meeting of finance committee; the representative of Victoria for this being Mrs. M. Killam. 11:30 to 1 p.m.—Standing committees of the National Council. These include committees to deal with: Laws for the better protection of women and children, parallel literature, custodial care of feeble-minded women, care of the aged poor, immigration, press, and general labor women, aid for the Transvaal, contingent, bureau of information, the Canadian women's handbook. 2:30 p.m.—Meeting of executive, which includes the officers and presidents of all local councils and provincial vice-presidents and delegates. This meeting is open to the public. 3:30 p.m.—Reception at Bishops' Palace of the delegates of local councils in attendance.

May we request the Times not to take everything so seriously? A little journalistic persiflage, so to speak, is always admissible, and especially during dog days.

"Hope deferred may make the heart sick, but it cannot keep Mr. Helmecken from moving in regard to the Songies Reserve at every session of the legislature. The Colonist met a member of the house yesterday who wants to go home early. He says that a summer session cannot be too short to suit him. We fancy that he expresses the views of every one, and especially of the newspapers, who are having to report two sessions and an extended debate. In our legislature it is otherwise, and the house always debates the Address at length. It is, therefore, only right to give members time to look over the document and decide what they shall say upon it. All men are not like Mr. Martin and Mr. Brown, unburied with observations on every imaginable subject, and they need a little time to think about what they will say. Possibly in some cases delay leads members to decide to observe an eloquent silence, and this is not always a bad thing. The disposition to air eloquence for the benefit of the fair and intelligent audience was not confined to Mr. Martin, but no one else said anything which had better have been left unsaid. Everyone sympathized with Mr. Prentice when he indignantly repelled the attack upon him.

The Cape government proposes to deal rigorously with the rebel Dutch. This is a wise conclusion. It is well to be merciful, but there is such a thing as overdoing it.

The usual catechizing of the government has begun. The sort of thing goes on every session, but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred no one ever makes any use of the answers elicited.

A correspondent complains of the conduct of some persons who frequent the benches in the neighborhood of the city. It is to be hoped that respectable campers will take steps to protect themselves against such disgraceful rowdiness.

We have another letter in regard to the rescue of the crew of the Hera. If this sort of thing keeps up the crew will wish they had not been rescued, and therefore we must decline to print the letter, with apologies to our correspondent, whose views on subjects of present interest we shall be glad to have at any time.

The Seattle Times says that the city which is published has a population of 55,000, and says that this is a great disappointment. There was once a very plain maiden lady of forty-seven years, who went to a police magistrate and complained that a certain person had assaulted her by kissing her on the cheek, and she said, "You brag." "Ah, go away, madam, you brag." The disappointment of the Times resembles the complaint of the lady referred to.

There are now ten tickets in the field for the presidential election in the United States. They are as follows: The Republican, the Democratic, the Populist, the Middle-of-the-Road Populist, the Prohibitionist, the Socialist, Labor, the Social Democratic, the De-Leon Socialist, the United Christian, and the Gold Democratic. Bryan is the nominee of three of the parties, namely, the Democrats, the Populists and the Silver Republicans. McKinley is nominated by the straight Republican party only. The only men of international reputation on the other tickets are Ignatius Donnelly, nominated for Vice-President by the Middle-of-the-Road Populists, and Eugene Debs, nominated for president by the Social Democrats.

The Council Of Women

Delegates From the Eastern Provinces Arrived Here Last Evening.

List of Those Who Will Attend the Meetings Next Week.

About 68 delegates to the National Council of Women arrived over from the Mainland last evening and were met by a large number of the Victoria supporters of the movement, headed by His Worship the Mayor, Mrs. Harwood, Miss Lawson and Mrs. Gordon Grant had gone over to Vancouver to meet them and had there witnessed the informal recognition that the ladies received at the hands of Mayor Gordon and many members of the council and the citizens of Vancouver.

After the ladies had docked at the outer wharf the ladies remained on board for a few minutes, during which the reception committee boarded the steamer, and which the Victoria ladies carried off their guests, carriages having been provided for the great number. To-day the occasion is being recognized by the choice of subjects in at least two of the city pulpits. Rev. Mr. Rowe, of the Metropolitan Methodist church, chose the subject, "The National Value of Women," while at the First Presbyterian church Rev. Dr. Campbell took for his evening subject "Dorcas, a Woman Full of Good Works and of Alms."

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"Did the doctors say that made poor Billy Doolittle?" "Yes, he has been trying to construct an auto as light that could carry it home on his back if it got balky."—Chicago Record.

The Meeting Of

Resume of the Durlug of the Week.

Interesting and Interesting Pers Read—Visit Pleased.

A very interesting and interesting of the clergy of the Northwest British Columbia took place last week. It was the third of has grown in interest each every school of thought including among them leading universities of America. There was no success of the gathering, judicious handling of it, and, in fact, each day's me have gone back to their pined and refreshed.

The session commenced cathedral service at which Columbia addressed the clergy and deeply spiritual to the key note to subsequent On Wednesday morning, 10 to 11:30 a.m.—Meeting of finance committee; the representative of Victoria for this being Mrs. M. Killam. 11:30 to 1 p.m.—Standing committees of the National Council. These include committees to deal with: Laws for the better protection of women and children, parallel literature, custodial care of feeble-minded women, care of the aged poor, immigration, press, and general labor women, aid for the Transvaal, contingent, bureau of information, the Canadian women's handbook. 2:30 p.m.—Meeting of executive, which includes the officers and presidents of all local councils and provincial vice-presidents and delegates. This meeting is open to the public. 3:30 p.m.—Reception at Bishops' Palace of the delegates of local councils in attendance.

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The Seattle Times says that the city which is published has a population of 55,000, and says that this is a great disappointment. There was once a very plain maiden lady of forty-seven years, who went to a police magistrate and complained that a certain person had assaulted her by kissing her on the cheek, and she said, "You brag." "Ah, go away, madam, you brag." The disappointment of the Times resembles the complaint of the lady referred to.

There are now ten tickets in the field for the presidential election in the United States. They are as follows: The Republican, the Democratic, the Populist, the Middle-of-the-Road Populist, the Prohibitionist, the Socialist, Labor, the Social Democratic, the De-Leon Socialist, the United Christian, and the Gold Democratic. Bryan is the nominee of three of the parties, namely, the Democrats, the Populists and the Silver Republicans. McKinley is nominated by the straight Republican party only. The only men of international reputation on the other tickets are Ignatius Donnelly, nominated for Vice-President by the Middle-of-the-Road Populists, and Eugene Debs, nominated for president by the Social Democrats.